

# Highway named for Eula Hall, founder of Mud Creek Clinic and community activist

"For all the grand words people can use, the most magnificent praise I can think to bestow is simply that Eula Hall has made her community, and the world, a better place to live."

Those words from State Rep. Chuck Meade (D-Floyd) were echoed by every person who took the microphone on Friday, October 27, to honor the woman who has made it her life's work to improve the health and quality of life of everyone with whom she comes in contact, especially her friends and neighbors on Mud Creek in Floyd County.

Shown here with her grandson, Randy, a member of District 12's Allen Maintenance Crew, Eula Hall was pleased that KY 979 in Floyd County is now named Eula Hall Highway, but she said she's never done anything alone, that everything she's ever done, any help she's ever given to or gotten for anyone has always been the result of a team of people working together.

Jim Kelly, Manager of the Big Sandy District, Social Security Administration, seemed to contradict Hall's humble assessment of herself when he regaled the audience of some 250 with stories of Eula protesting in Charleston, West Virginia, for recognition of pneumoconiosis (black lung) as a disabling disease. Kelly also told stories of her advocacy for people who filed for benefits through the Social Security Administration. "Her records is as good as most lawyers and better than some," he said. Administrative Law Judge Charles Andrus, who was in the audience, was seen nodding in agreement.

From a "hired girl" at the age of 16 who worked in houses where oil and gas drillers boarded during World War II to the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Berea College on the same ticket as Bishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, Eula Hall has shown the world that people should not be denied medical care because they have no insurance and no money. Moreover, she has proved that people can't get well if they are hungry, cold, and don't have decent house and clothing.

Ancil Lewis, CEO of Big Sandy Health Care, the parent company of Mud Creek Clinic, which Eula founded in 1973, called her grandson, Brandon Hall, to the lectern and challenged him to carry on his grandmother's tradition of helping people get the care they need, making government officials pay attention, and never giving up, never taking no as a final answer, and continuing her legacy.

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*The dedication ceremony was held at John M. Stumbo Elementary School. Many thanks to Deresa Ray, Principal, shown here at the far left beside Eula and her grandson Brandon. Sons Dean and Danny and grandson Randy are in the background.*

*— Photos on this page by LeRoy Newsome  
Minnie Maintenance*

